

Message Text

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ACTION SY-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ADP-00 FBO-01 SSO-00 /018 W

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O 251426 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8314

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 4677

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC OGEN OTRA

SUBJECT: REPAIRS TO CHANCERY FACADE

FOR: A/ SY/ FO, A/ SY/ NSU

FROM: CPOIC BROWN AND RSO

REF: A. MOSCOW 4672

B. STATE 077049

C. MOSCOW 4603

1. IN THE APRIL 25 EMBASSY SOVIET DISCUSSION NOTED REFTEL 4603, SOVIETS ADAMANTLY REJECTED THE EMBASSY PROPOSAL FOR SEABEES TO CARRY OUT FRONT FACADE REPAIRS ABOVE THE SIXTH FLOOR. THE SOVIETS REFERRED TO WHAT THEY CONSIDERED THE DEPARTMENT'S APPROVAL, REPORTED IN STATE 125469, FOR SOVIET WORKMAN TO CARRY OUT THE ENTIRE FRONT FACADE REPAIR PROJECT UNDER SURVEILLANCE BY SEABEE PERSONNEL. THE SOVIET PARTICIPANTS IN THE APRIL 25 MEETING FLATLY REFUSED FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THE FACADE REPAIR PROJECT SITUATION SAYING THE EMBASSY SHOULD NOW NEGOTIATE DIRECTLY WITH RESPONSIBLE UPDK OFFICIALS. THE SOVIETS STATED THEY WOULD DO ALL THE REPAIRS INVOLVED OR NONE AT ALL. THEY INDICATED THEY WOULD RETRIEVE SCAFFOLDING WHICH IS ALREADY AVAILABLE IN THE EMBASSY COMPOUND.

2. THE EMBASSY IS ADVISING THE DEPARTMENT (SEE REFTEL 4672) OF THE CURRENT IMPASSE AND REQUESTING GUIDANCE ON IMMEDIATE ACTION TO BE TAKEN. IN THAT REGARD, THE EMBASSY
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IS SPECIFICALLY REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENT ON THE
AFOREMENTIONED PROPOSAL TO ALLOW THE SOVIET WORKMEN TO DO
THE ACTUAL REPAIRS TO THE FRONT FACADE UNDER CLOSE
SURVEILLANCE BY SEABEES. (THE EMBASSY IS PREPARED TO SEND
THE GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER TO THE DEPARTMENT TO CONVEY
THE EMBASSY'S CONCERN OVER THE CURRENT IMPASSE.)

3. CPOIC BROWN ADVISES HE COULD NOT POSSIBLY CARRY OUT
THE CONTEMPLATED FACADE REPAIRS, AS CURRENTLY ENVISAGED,
WITH THE LIMITED SEABEE PERSONNEL OFFERED REFTEL 077049.
HE NOTES THE SEABEE MANPOWER ESTIMATE PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED
WAS A ROCK BOTTOM FIGURE. HE ALSO NOTES THE LIMITED
PERSONNEL OFFERED WOULD CREATE A DECIDED SAFETY FACTOR IN
VIEW OF THE EXTENSIVE WORK TO BE DONE AND THE PROJECTED
PACE OF THE ENTIRE FACADE REPAIR OPERATION.

4. REGARDING PARAGRAPH 4 OF REFTEL 077049, THE CURRENT
DETERIORATED STATE OF THE NORTH WING ROOF REQUIRES THE
NORTH CENTRAL FACADE REPAIRS BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO THE
CARRYING OUT OF THE NORTH WING ROOF REPAIRS. ALSO, THE
AVAILABILITY OF THE NORTH CENTRAL FACADE SCAFFOLDING IS
NECESSARY FOR REQUIRED SUPPORT TO THE EAST AND WEST
CORNER CENTRAL FACADE REPAIRS.

5. THE RSO HAS ALREADY MADE PLANS TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATE
TECHNICAL SECURITY SAFEGUARDS, E. G., CCTV, CONTACT ALARMS
ON THE CENTRAL WING ROOF, REMOVING PLANKS OF UPPER FLOOR
SCAFFOLDING, LIGHTING, PLUS, ERECTING A TEMPORARY
FORMIDABLE OBSTACLE ON THE CENTRAL WING ROOF TO DISCOURAGE
POSSIBLE SOVIET PHYSICAL ACCESS TO THE ROOF. HOWEVER, IT
SHOULD BE STRESSED THE USE OF VARIOUS TECHNICAL SECURITY
SAFEGUARDS CANNOT PROVIDE THE AFTER DUTY HOURS PHYSICAL
SECURITY PROTECTION NECESSARY; ONLY THE PHYSICAL PRESENCE
OF MSGS AS REQUESTED REFTEL 4283 CAN DO THAT.
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